



Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Key Points

January 5, 2021

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing COVID-19 weekly key points that includes information discussed on the weekly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Recordings of the call will not be made available; please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

Important Updates

- **New:** NCDHHS_LHD Weekly Webinar_01.05.2021.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** Local Health Vaccine FAQ-Final 12.31.20.pdf (file attached)

State Epidemiologist Update

- [New data](#) published in MMWR regarding implications of shortened quarantine period among household contacts
 - Among household contacts who received negative SARS-CoV-2 test results and were asymptomatic through day 7, there was an 81% chance (95% confidence interval [CI] = 67%–90%) of remaining asymptomatic and receiving negative RT-PCR test results through day 14.
 - This increased to 93% (95% CI = 78%–98%) for household members who were asymptomatic with negative RT-PCR test results through day 10.
 - Per CDC: “To minimize the potential risk for further spread, persons who have been released from a shortened quarantine should continue to monitor their health for symptoms of COVID-19, avoid close contact with others (including persons in their household), and cover their nose and mouth with a mask when around others for the remainder of the 14 days.”
- [New data](#) published in MMWR regarding antigen test performance on a college campus
 - Compared with real-time reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing, the Sofia antigen test had a sensitivity of 80.0% and specificity of 98.9% among symptomatic persons; accuracy was lower (sensitivity 41.2% and specificity 98.4%) when used for screening of asymptomatic persons.
 - Does not change existing guidance and flowchart from DHHS.
 - Per CDC: “All persons with negative antigen test results should continue to take measures to prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission, including wearing a mask, reducing contact with nonhousehold members, and getting tested if they experience symptoms or have close contact with someone who has COVID-19.”
- Newly reported variants of concerns, including B.1.1.7 (“UK variant”) have not been identified in NC, but B.1.1.7 has been identified in other states and is likely circulating here. Information and updates available on [CDC website](#).



Contact Tracing

Case notification via CCTO went live December 24, 2020; after an implementation phase, around 75% of case patients have a notification successfully sent.

Case notification flow can be seen in the NC COVID admin package and will be added to the Event Line List reports; in CCTO it can be seen in the case record in CCTO and in the All cases imported from NC COVID view (filter for your LHD)

Find My Testing Place

Please review the updated 'Find My Testing Place LHD' Excel file weekly to ensure information is up to date and accurate. Please send the updated files or any related questions to SVC_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov